

**California
Commission on Teacher Credentialing**

**Meeting of
October 3-4, 2001**

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: **PERF - 1**

COMMITTEE: **Performance Standards Committee**

TITLE: **Proposed Amendment to the Contract for the
Development and Validation of Subject Matter
Requirements for Single Subject Teaching Credentials
in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science**

 X **Action**

 Information

 Report

Strategic Plan Goal(s):

Goal 1: **Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification
of professional educators.**

- Sustain high quality standards for the preparation of professional educators.
- Sustain high quality standards for the performance of credential candidates.

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Executive Director

**Proposed Amendment to the Contract for the Development and Validation of
Subject Matter Requirements for Single Subject Teaching Credentials in
English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science**

Professional Services Division

September 17, 2001

Executive Summary

In April 2001 the Commission authorized the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) for the development and validation of subject matter requirements for Single Subject Teaching Credentials in English, mathematics, science, and social science. The contract has been approved and substantial progress has been made. Given AIR's findings about the population size and distribution of teachers in these four subject areas, AIR and Commission staff have worked together to develop a modified sampling plan that is expected to, for a modest additional cost, result in both generalizable findings and survey responses from at least 20 African American, 20 Asian American, and 20 Latino teachers in each subject area. This report recommends a modification to the validity study to accomplish these goals and an increase of \$20,000 in the total contract amount.

Fiscal Impact Summary

The Commission's budget for 2001-02 includes sufficient funds to support the recommended contract amendment discussed in this report.

Policy Issue To Be Decided

Should the Commission authorize the Executive Director to sign a contract amendment with AIR to increase the scope of the validity study of subject matter requirements for Single Subject Teaching Credentials in English, mathematics, science, and social science?

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Commission authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract amendment as described below:

- Contract Number TCC-0045
- Contractor American Institutes for Research
- Contracting Period May 29, 2000 to April 30, 2002
- Purpose of Contract To develop and validate subject matter requirements for Single Subject Teaching Credentials in English, mathematics, science and social science
- Proposed Amendments
 1. The contractor will increase the number of teacher surveys distributed from 4,000 to 5,904.
 2. The contractor will contact professional organizations of teachers of English, mathematics, science, and social science, and professional organizations of non-White teachers, and ask them to assist with the dissemination of information about a Web-based survey to which their members will be invited to respond.
 3. The contract requirement that the contractor obtain at least 35 African American, 35 Asian American, and 35 Latino teachers in each subject area will be removed.
 4. Increase the total contract amount by \$20,000, from \$475,399 to \$495,399.
- Source of Funding Test Administration and Development Account

Proposed Amendment to the Contract for the Development and Validation of Subject Matter Requirements for Single Subject Teaching Credentials in English, Mathematics, Science and Social Science

Professional Services Division

September 17, 2001

Background

In April 2001 the Commission authorized the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the American Institutes for Research (AIR) for the development and validation of subject matter requirements for Single Subject Teaching Credentials in English, mathematics, science, and social science. The contract has been approved and substantial progress has been made. A major part of the contracted scope of work is the implementation of a statewide validity study of the preliminary subject matter requirements. The validity study involves surveys of teachers, administrators, curriculum specialists, and subject matter program faculty. Two important goals of the study are to obtain generalizable results and to obtain adequate responses from African American, Asian American, and Latino teachers in each subject area. In the Request for Proposals (RFP) that resulted in this contract, staff indicated that the contractor would develop a survey sampling plan that (a) included the distribution of 4,000 teacher surveys and (b) resulted in at least 35 African American, 35 Asian American, and 35 Latino teacher respondents in each subject area. AIR's technical and cost proposals were based on the distribution of 4,000 teacher surveys.

The Proposed Contract Amendment

In developing a draft sampling plan for the validity study, AIR's sampling experts conducted detailed analyses of the statewide data from the California Basic Educational Data System (CBEDS). They found the following:

- There are very small numbers of African American, Asian American, and/or Latino teachers in some of the sciences, especially chemistry and geoscience, who would be eligible to respond to the validity survey.¹ Given typical survey response rates, such numbers make it impossible to obtain survey responses from 35 African American, 35 Asian American, and 35 Latino teachers in each of the four science areas.

¹ For example, there are only 58 eligible African American chemistry teachers, 17 eligible Asian American geoscience teachers, and 26 eligible Latino geoscience teachers. Eligibility requirements include (a) teaching classes in the subject area, (b) holding a credential authorizing departmentalized instruction in the subject area, and (c) at least two years of experience teaching classes in the subject area.

- In the subject areas of English, mathematics, and social science, the prevalence and distribution of African American and/or Asian American teachers makes it impossible, without substantially increasing the numbers of schools or teachers sampled, to both (a) produce a generalizable sample and (b) obtain survey responses from 35 African American, 35 Asian American, and 35 Latino teachers in each area.²

In response to these findings, AIR and Commission staff have worked together to develop a modified sampling plan that, for an additional cost of \$20,000, is expected to yield (a) generalizable findings for all subject areas and (b) survey responses from at least 20 African American, 20 Asian American, and 20 Latino teachers in each non-science subject area. The modified plan will also devote additional resources for obtaining survey responses from African American, Asian American, and Latino science teachers. The specific changes needed in the contract for this purpose are delineated below:

1. The number of teacher surveys distributed will increase from 4,000 to 5,904.
2. Professional organizations of teachers of English, mathematics, science, and social science, and professional organizations of non-White teachers, will be contacted and asked to assist with the dissemination of information about a Web-based survey to which their members would be invited to respond.
3. The contract requirement that the contractor obtain at least 35 African American, 35 Asian American, and 35 Latino teachers in each subject area will be removed.
4. The total contract amount will be increased by \$20,000.

² For example, there are only 463 eligible Asian American social science teachers in the state, and no school in the state has more than three. A similar situation exists for African American mathematics and social science teachers and Asian American English teachers.